

generalizations here presented indicate that certain facts and conditions, of which experienced field ornithologists may feel conscious, may eventually be established on a scientific basis.

Professor Forbes points out that from the data thus far collected it is evident that there is a numerical increase in birds from the northern part of the State southward, in the ratio of 133 birds in the central part, and 181 in the southern, to 100 in the northern part. While there is undoubtedly a southward numerical increase, it must be noted that here June in the south is compared with August in the north, which is hardly a fair basis. It would hence be of interest to repeat the reconnaissance, reversing the order. This would furnish a basis for the double comparison of north with south — in June *and* August — and for comparing two censuses of the same region at opposite ends of the breeding season. As is well known, August is the season of moult, when birds are comparatively quiet and seek seclusion, and when, in the latitude of northern Illinois, there is generally a dearth of birds in comparison with June. Some indeed have either begun to move south, or have gathered into loose flocks and are of irregular distribution, and some even occupy different haunts as compared with June. Again, in repeating this reconnaissance in inverse order in respect to season, it would be well — almost important — to employ the same observer as before, since different observers differ greatly in the matter of expertness, and in the taking of such a census all the conditions should be as similar as possible.

The statistics presented respecting the Meadowlark are of exceeding interest, but we do not feel so sure that the inductions based thereon are satisfactory. It is of interest to know that there are many more Meadowlarks apparently in southern Illinois than in northern Illinois, but the greater abundance in pasture lands in northern Illinois in August as compared with their numbers in meadows, than in southern Illinois in June, may be in large part seasonal, since the preferred nesting grounds of Meadowlarks are meadows, while later in the season their dispersal is more general and includes pasture and other open lands as well as meadows.

If we were to make any formal criticism on Professor Forbes's paper, it would be to say that while the work here reported upon is well worth doing, and has been well planned, the data from a single season's work of two observers are too few to warrant the expectation that generalizations from them can be otherwise than premature, since observations made in August in northern Illinois, cannot be satisfactorily compared with others made in June in southern Illinois, since the two periods relate to two very different seasons in the cycle of avian activities.— J. A. A.

**Warren on Birds of Northwestern Colorado.**<sup>1</sup>— An itinerary, illustrated with a map, is given of the author's route in northwestern Colorado in the spring and summer of 1907. Although the main purpose of the

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<sup>1</sup> Northwestern Colorado Bird Notes. By Edward R. Warren. The Condor, Vol. X, pp. 18–26, Jan. 1908.

journey was to collect the mammals of the region, considerable attention was given to the birds, as attested by the present list of 93 species collected or observed during the trip, mainly in Grand, Routt, and Eagle counties. Among the interesting records is that of a small colony of Bobolinks (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) at Steamboat Springs, in the eastern part of Routt County.—J. A. A.

**Howell on Winter Birds of Northern Louisiana.**<sup>1</sup>—This is a briefly annotated list of about 70 species and subspecies, and adds 7 to the list of Louisiana birds. It is especially welcome as furnishing definite information respecting the distribution and abundance of the winter birds of a little known district.—J. A. A.

**Birds of Yellowstone Park.**—In the Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Yellowstone Park for 1907 (pp. 15–23) Dr. T. S. Palmer contributes the results of his observations on the birds of Yellowstone Park made during parts of August and September, 1907. There are formal notes on about seventy species. Suggestions are made for the increase and better protection of the birds about the hotels and permanent camps by the prohibition of cats and by providing nesting boxes and shallow pans of water where the birds can bathe and drink.—J. A. A.

**Carriker on New Birds from Costa Rica.**<sup>2</sup>—The new species are *Formicarius castaneiceps* and *Sporophila crissalis*, and seven other species are recorded for the first time from Costa Rica.—J. A. A.

**Mrs. Miller's 'The Bird Our Brother.'**—The purpose of the present work<sup>3</sup> is eminently commendable, and its selections are in the main from excellent sources, for it is mainly composed of extracts from a multitude of writers, woven together with such comment as Mrs. Miller's wide experiences with birds and her sympathies suggest. The book is a popular exposition of bird traits "intended solely for the 'general reader' . . . It is simply an earnest attempt . . . to present him [the bird] as an individual, a fellow pilgrim in this fair world of ours." It consists of fourteen chapters, treating of 'individuality,' 'intelligence,' 'language,' 'altruism,' 'education,' 'affection,' 'courtship,' 'home,' 'amusements,' 'means of defense and attack,' 'odd ways,' 'equipment,' 'usefulness to us,' and 'conclusion.' These headings will serve to give a general idea of the method of treatment,

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<sup>1</sup> Notes on the Winter Birds of Northern Louisiana. By Arthur H. Howell. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. XXI, pp. 119–124, April 11, 1908.

<sup>2</sup> Brief Descriptions of some new Species of Birds from Costa Rica and a record of some Species not hitherto recorded from that Country. By M. A. Carriker, Jr. Ann. Carnegie Museum, Vol. IV, pp. 301, 302, April 1, 1908.

<sup>3</sup> The Bird Our Brother | A Contribution | to the Study of the Bird | as He is in Life | By | Olive Thorne Miller | [Seal] Boston and New York | Houghton, Mifflin and Company | The Riverside Press, Cambridge | 1908 — 16 mo., pp. xii + 331. \$1.25 net.